

The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 4

WINTER 1993

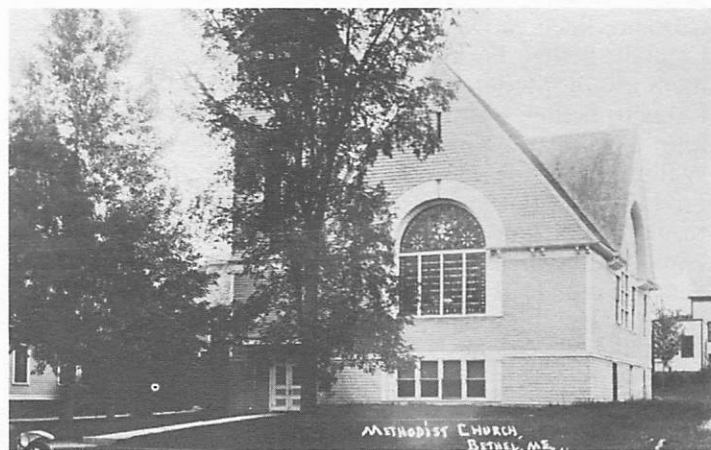
BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN RAISES OVER \$8000

Over \$8000 was raised for the 1993 Annual Fund Campaign from nearly 300 donors. Much appreciation is due all of the following for making this possible:

Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ont.; Avery & Mary Angevine, Bethel; Ernest & Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Joan Armstrong, Branford, CT; Romeo & Joan Baker, Bethel; Jean MacArthur Barker, Delray Beach, FL; Alvin & Lee Barth, Jr., Bethel; Clark & Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Otis Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Rev. Brendon & Jean Bass, Bethel; Bessie Bennett, Peru, in memory of Lester Bennett; Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Linona A. Blake, West Paris; Francis & Mary Lou Berry, Bethel, in memory of Helen M. Berry, Helen C. Berry, & Eva T. Chapman; Reba H. Bloom, Clinton, NJ; Kenneth & Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Garret & Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Lillian Kelly Bomhoff, Bangor, PA; Florine E. Bowden, Smithfield, RI; Colleen F. Boyd, West Bethel; Carl & Lettie Brooks, West Paris; Camp Lacock, HI Bean Camp, Bethel; Isabel Tuell Coburn, New Harbor; James & Beatrice Brown, Bethel; Julia B. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Lucia Tikander Wilson; Albert & Norma Buck, Bethel; Gordon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Guy P. Butler, Millinocket; Donald & Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, in memory of Dorothy Hanscom Jones; Mary Folsom Champe, Rumford Center; Stephen & Lynda Chandler, Bethel; Albert S. Chapman, Harbert, MI; Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody, MA; Frank & Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Donald M. Christie, Jr., Poughkeepsie, NY; Fillmore & Shirley Clough, Bethel; Howard & Virginia Cole, Bethel; Evelyn R. Collins, New Cumberland, PA; Wilfred G. Conary, Bethel; Rupert & Eva Conroy, Auburn; Edgar A. Coolidge, Quincy, MA; Cynthia A. Cox, Scotland; Barbara J. Crocker, Riverside, RI; Stuart Crocker Architect, Bethel; Clayton & Lola Crockett, Bethel; Robert & Pauline Davis, Bethel; Vivian Darcy, Portland; Louise S. Day, Biddeford; David Diano, LA Canada, CA; Dana & Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Hugh & Mariann Durgin, North Waterford; in memory of John E. Grover; Diane Dyer, Westbrook; Rodney & Kay Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Donald B. Eddy, Haverford, PA; Muriel Ewing, York; Howard & Alice Fales, West Redding, CT; Walter & Phyllis Fales, Royal Oak, MI; Robert C. III & Janet Foster, East Boothbay; John B. & Julia G. Fox, West Newton, MA; Deane & Patricia Frank, Pittsburgh, PA; Arthur & Ruth Gilbert, West Bethel; George & Bette Gilbert, Bethel; Shirley & Marilyn Gilbert, West Bethel; Celia K. Gorman, Bethel; Wilma B. Gorman, Bethel, in memory of Gardner Gorman; John & Dorothy Glascock, Cedar Falls, IA, in memory of Jean Grover DeLoughery; Robert W.

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Bethel's Methodist Church as it looked after 1915 following the addition of the basement.

HISTORY OF THE BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

by Arlene G. and Donald S. Brown

Editor's Note: This paper was delivered at the July 1993 meeting of the Society and has been revised for publication.

Although we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of this church edifice, we feel that it should be pointed out that Methodism came to Bethel in 1798, when the first Methodist Circuit Rider, Rev. Nicholas Snethen, preached here several times. A number of other circuit riders preached in Bethel during the time before the Lynn, Mass. Conference appointed Rev. Joseph Baker to the Bethel and Rumford Charges in July of 1800. At that time a church society was organized with 14 members. Nathaniel Segar was the first class leader.

About 1814, the first Methodist Church in Bethel was built near Duston's Ferry on the north side of the Androscoggin River about a quarter of a mile west of where the Hanover Cemetery is now. Ethan Ellis gave the following description of the building: "No part of it was painted. Foundation was of rough stones, dug from the ground near the building. The church contained 48 pews numbered with chalk upon the pew doors. Singers' seats were each side of the door, raised about three feet with good panel work in front and doors same as pews. Pulpit was at the other end, raised about five feet, finished all around with high panel work and a door secured with a wooden button".

Fourteen years later, in 1828, a stove was installed in the church. Before that the worshippers had to depend upon

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Goodwin, Norway; Elizabeth Hall, Centerville, MA; Frances W. Hamilton, East Stoneham; Carolyn Wight Harrison, Portland; Colwyn F. & Judith E. Haskell, Bethel; Walter & Carolyn Hatch, Bethel; John & Fumiko Head, Bethel; Olive Head, West Bethel; Clayton & Helen Heath, Norway; Ethel Herr, Bethel; Shirley I. Hodsdon, West Bethel; Richard & Jane Hosterman, West Bethel; Gabrielle Howe, Rockville, MD; Rodney & Geraldine Howe, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Stanley R. Howe, Bethel, in memory of Richard Bryant and Agnes Haines; Harlan & Gertrude Hutchins, Bethel; Lee & Virginia Hutchins, Bethel; Vernon Leland Ingraham, Marian, MA; Arlan & Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA; Paul & Helen Judkins, Vero Beach, FL; Roy & Alice Keddy, Gorham; Rebecca P. Kendall, Bethel; Ronald & Marguerite Kendall, Bethel; Earlon & Mary Rice Keniston, Bethel, in memory of Madelyn "Duffy" Brooks; Alden & Mabel Kennett, Bethel; Bob & Ruth Kilgore, San Bernardino, CA; John & Margaret King, Lakeland, FL; Roberta M. Kirmse, Wallingford, CT; Herbert & Ruth Kittredge, Hanover; Frederick & Barbara Kneeland, Cherryfield; James D. Konkel, Portland; Helen Kraul, Portland; Jean Post Lamphear, Riverwoods, IL; Rev. Clifford & Elizabeth Laws, Kittery Point; Daisy M. LeClair, Bethel; Will & Mary Leland, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Elsie Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Elizabeth Lord, Bethel; Arlene D. Lowell, Bethel; Frank & Beatrice Lowell, Newry; Rodney Lynch, Skowhegan; Howard Mason, Russell, MA; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel, in memory of James K. & Agnes H. Haines; M. Heinie Merrill, Bethel; Edward & Mary Mills, Locke Mills; Marilyn Noyes Mollicone, Augusta; James & Josephine Monahan, Bethel; Helen Anna Morton, Bethel; Herbert H. Morton, III, Andover, MA; Mary Anne Murphy, Dracut, MA; Norman R. Jr. & Jean Ness, Auburn; Charles & Cathy Newell, Bethel, in memory of Hazel H. Newell; Portia M. Nichols, Mountain View, CA; Althea Gould Noyes, Falmouth; Joseph, Hazel & Kathleen O'Donnell, Newtonville, MA; Beverly Onofrio, Central Falls, RI; Marvin & Tineke Ouwinga, Bethel; Earlon & Mary Paine, Bethel; Barbara Patterson, Bethel; Louise L. Poisson, Jamison, PA, in memory of Arthur F. Lincoln; Archibald & Persis Post, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Dr. Majic & Jeanette Potsaid, Hanover, MA; Harold & Eunice Powell, Hanover; Betty R. Prescott, Bangor; Kenneth & Ruth Pryor, Littleton, NH; Anthony & Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Purity Chapter O.E.S., Bethel; Kenneth & Sarah Ramage, Bethel; Richard Rasor, Bethel; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; Sandy M. Robinson, Amsterdam, NY; Frances M. Saunders, Bethel, in memory of Wallace Saunders; Margaret M. Sawyer, Waterford; Dorothy G. Schmidt, Augusta; Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Brooklin, Arthur & Betty Ann Smith, Bethel; C. Gerald & Eugenia Spalding, Tewksbury, MA; Clyde & Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Doris H. Stevens, Rexford, NY; Dr. Robert & Joanne Stewart, Portland; Dexter & Janet Stowell, Bethel; Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA, in memory of George P. Stowell, Jr.; Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD; Jane Sullivan, Portland; Sunday River Inn, Bethel; Glenn E. Swan, Mexico; Dick & Sally Taylor, Bethel; Richard & Regina Thek, Seaford, DE; B. Taylor Thompson, Jamaica Plain, MA; Muriel B. Thompson, West Springfield, MA; Hope Tibbetts, Bethel; Don & Peggy Tobin, Bandera, TX; Clara H. Thurston, North Fryeburg; Dr. John & Margaret Trinward, North Waterford; Sarah S. Tucker, Boston, MA; Edmond & Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Mary E. Valentine, Bethel; Jerry & Shireen Vincent, Bethel; Frank & Janet Vogt, Bethel; Dr. William & Joyce Wanger, Rumford; Margaret S. Ward, King

of Prussia, PA, in memory of William F. Farwell Family; Ruth H. Watson, Gouldsboro; Robert & Mary Wendig, Huntingdon Valley, PA; Millie B. Wentzell, Bethel; Les Whall, Salt Lake City, Utah, in memory of Manzee York Whall; Mary E. Wheeler, Bethel; Maynard H. White, Haverhill, MA; Elizabeth Whiteman, Elkins Park, PA; Ruth Wight, Bethel; Willard & Sylvia Wight, Newry; Doris F. Wilkins, Clearwater, FL; Mrs. William W. Wilkins, Longwood, FL; Ronald & Joan Willard, Falls Church, VA, in memory of Jay & Melva Willard; Dennis & Rita Wilson, Bethel; Dorothy C. Wilson, Orono; Eleanor L. Wilson, Bryant Pond; Ferroll & Marie Witter, North Waterford; Elizabeth Woronzoff, Bethel in memory of Lucia V. Wilson; Raymond E. York, Camarillo, CA; Archie & Jane Young, Bethel.

(Methodist Church, continued from page 1)

the fervor of the preacher or the fire in their own hearts to keep warm. This church was struck by lightning during services at which time a Mrs. Magill was killed and others prostrated. This building was sold, taken down and moved to Hanover village where it was used as a furniture shop.

In 1816, the Methodists and the Baptists, with the help of \$200 raised by the town built a meeting house at Middle Intervale.

About 1831, because parishioners were so widely scattered over the area, the Methodists together with the Baptists decided to build a union Meeting House at Lockes Corner (presently known as Swan's Corner). The building was probably located on the left side of the road about where Herman and Nancy Cummings live now. This building was eventually torn down and the materials used to build the Newry Corner Church in 1865. To show how really good our ancestors were at re-cycling, when the Newry Corner church was torn down the materials were again used - this time to build a boarding house in Mexico.

The East Bethel Church was also built around 1831 and used by both denominations. It is believed that for a time, for the convenience of the members, Sunday services were held in all four churches. (Duston's Ferry, Middle Intervale, Lockes Corner and East Bethel)

In 1857, the Baptists relinquished their share in the Lockes Corner church, as the Methodists and the Baptists each desired a church building of their own. That same year the Middle Intervale Church was sold at auction, and purchased by the Baptists who out-bid the Methodists by one dollar. The amount of the bid is not known.

Then, to quote Addie Saunder's history of the church: "In 1859 and 1860 a neat and convenient church was built at Bethel Hill at a cost of \$3000." Standing where the present building is, the new church was dedicated in 1861 with Rev. Abel Potter as minister. At the beginning of the Conference year in 1862, there were 77 members and 18 probationers. The ministers salary was \$350.

Nine ministers came and went in the years between 1862 and 1882 when it was voted to buy a parsonage. Rev. Sylvester Hooper, 1883-84, was the first minister to live in the Main Street parsonage which was purchased from Nathan Ethridge. Now it's the home of Donald and Eleanor Brooks.

To quote an 1888 Conference report: "Bethel Charge has begun a new life."

A new furnace was installed in the church in 1889 which added much to the comfort of the worshippers in cold weather.

The Trustees were so discouraged in 1890 that they decided to sell the parsonage to pay the debt on it but Rev. T. Record who served the church in 1890-91 with his usual energy took hold of the work, and in a short time had raised enough money to pay the debt, make repairs on the house, stable and horse sheds at the church.

On Sept. 18, 1891 a devastating cyclone hit the area and destroyed the Methodist Church. Following is the report as it appeared in the *Oxford Democrat*, Tues., Sept. 22, 1891:

About 4 o'clock Friday afternoon a cyclone struck Bethel and demolished the M. E. Church, lifting the roof bodily and dropping it in the audience room. The bell was in the pulpit, and the furniture, together with the organ, was ruined. Windows in the cupola of the store of Woodbury and Purington were blown in, and the large panes of glass were broken. Windows in the houses of G. R. Wiley and Mrs. T. C. Carter were blown in. The skylights in the house of R. W. Woodbury occupied by N. S. Bean were blown from their fastenings and the doors on the stables of Charles Mason, J. S. Swan and Mrs. T. C. Carter were blown from their tracks. Shade trees and fences were prostrated, and roads between Bethel and Greenwood are impassable. Telegraph poles were blown down and trains were delayed for several hours.

At first the Society was greatly disheartened, but in December 1891 the members resolved to "Arise and build at once."

A brief description of the re-building project from the Church History by Addie Saunders follows: ---

The Conference Year Book stated, "They need a strong man, the coming year to help complete the building of their church and call together the scattered flock."

Before the next Conference, \$1350 were expended, the church extension donated \$200. Persons from other denominations made generous contributions. The Universalists kindly offered the use of their church. Besides cash, friends gave an organ, chandelier, furniture, etc.

Rev. B. F. Fickett began in 1892 and labored with great zeal and tact. He had the hearty cooperation of all. Too much cannot be said of the chairman of the building committee whose time, strength, and business ability and experience were put into this enterprise. Calvin Bisbee was ably assisted by John S. Swan, who for years had been a loyal and faithful member of the church, ever ready to lend his support by word and deed.

The new structure was built upon an improved plan, drawn by Architect Elmer Thomas of Auburn and presented to the society. The church was commodious, convenient and beautiful, well worth \$5000.

In addition to the Conference report from the Saunders' history, we also found news items from the *Oxford Democrat* that related the progress on the church building. In the March 1, 1892 issue it was reported that they were taking advantage of the good weather, and that work on the Methodist Church was progressing. C. H. Adams had the contract for completion and was doing much of the work alone.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As the Bethel Historical Society moves toward its 20th anniversary in the Dr. Moses Mason House, it is amazing to me how quickly the Society has grown and prospered. Much of this success has come through the generosity and loyalty of the members. This support has been invaluable in helping to provide many services for an ever-growing number of patrons. The Annual Fund has become a vital source of support and we hope it will continue to be.

During the past year the Society received a letter from Mrs. Don F. (Peggy) Tobin of Bandera, Texas. The Tobins have never been to Bethel, but have maintained their membership as a kind of memorial to her husband's grandfather, Nathan Rice Twitchell, who was born in Bethel in 1844. Along with the letter was a generous donation to the Society. This is an example of the kind of support the Bethel Historical Society has been so fortunate to have had over its brief but productive existence.

We are very grateful to all our members and friends for all their help and hope we will continue to earn their support.

Charles F. Raymond

Then in the May 31, 1892 issue, the Methodist Church was reported as nearing completion, with the masons working in it that week. The reporter wrote that when it was finished it would be one of the prettiest modern churches in the county.

The following excerpts from the *Oxford Democrat* in the fall of 1892 show how people were rallying to the support of the building and furnishing of the new church.

October 18, 1892, *Oxford Democrat*

A very successful concert was given Saturday evening last, at Odeon Hall for the benefit of the Methodist society of this village.

The ladies connected with the M. E. society will hold their annual harvest fair next week at Pattee Hall. An antiquarian supper will be served between 6 and 8 P.M., ice cream late in the evening. Prof. Wight with the aid of the best singers in the county and all the chorus in and about Bethel will join in an old folks concert at Pattee Hall Saturday evening. The singers will come out dressed in costumes of ye olden time.

The M. E. Church is about finished. Will be ready for use in about two weeks. The pews have been ordered, costing \$500. Rev. Mr. Fickett, the pastor, just the man for the place, is a very popular man. The church will cost about \$5000 and will be a great improvement on the old church blown down some twelve months ago. Every man and woman in the several societies gave freely towards rebuilding the church. Among contributors are Judge Foster and wife \$250, E. C. Rowe, C. Rowe, each \$100, John Swan, \$100, C. Bisbee, \$100, M. C. Foster, Waterville, \$100, the late Timothy Chapman of Milwaukee, \$250, Ira C. Jordan, \$50, A. Chandler, \$50, and lots of others from \$25 to \$75.

October 25, 1892, *Oxford Democrat*

Part of the windows of the Bethel M. E. Church have arrived and are in place. They are very pretty. Work will now be pushed and the church ready for occupancy soon.

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SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.
Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street"	75¢
"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$7.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50	lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50	

Books

Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Heywood, HISTORY OF UPTON, MAINE	\$10
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERCEPTIONS	\$9.95
Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND	\$29.95
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND	Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS	\$25
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$20
N.T. True, HISTORY OF BETHEL	\$21

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.
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Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(Methodist Church, continued from page 3)

November 1, 1892, *Oxford Democrat*

A meeting was held at the new Methodist Church last Thursday. No pews have been put in as yet but chairs and settees supplied the want at this meeting. The pews will be put in soon.

Except for the comment in the newspaper that "the windows are very pretty," no mention of the memorial windows seems to have been made. However, the window facing Main Street was given in memory of Mary Brown Swan, wife of John Shattuck Swan. She was the great-grandmother of Raymond and Albert Buck now living in Bethel. Mary Brown Swan is buried at Middle Intervale Cemetery. The inscription on the window reads: "In Memoriam, Mary Swan died May 2, 1892 Age 62 years." The inscription on the side window reads "In Memoriam, Nancy Knight died July 25, 1891, Washington, D.C. Age 64 years". She was born Dec. 5, 1826, the daughter of Deacon Nathan F. and Sarah Burbank Twitchell. Her funeral was held in Bethel, July 27, 1891. She is buried at Riverside Cemetery. Her husband was Asa P. Knight who was born in Benton, N.H. They had two children, Walter, born in 1852, and Elizabeth, born in 1857.

On Feb. 15, 1893 the church was dedicated with the Rev. A. S. Ladd preaching the dedication sermon. The following account from the *Oxford Democrat* tells of the impressive dedication service:

The new Methodist church here was dedicated last Wednesday afternoon and evening. The dedicatory services began at 2:30 P.M. Rev. Mr. Jordan of the Congregationalist church and Rev. Mr. Beem of the Universalist church of this village assisted in the services. Presiding Elder Ladd was present and also Mrs. Ladd, who sang. The church was filled both afternoon and evening. The exercises were impressive and interesting. A collection or subscription was taken and it was then announced that enough had been received to clean up the whole debt of the church. The history of the rebuilding of this church has been but one continual narrative of energy, enterprise and perseverance for the attainment of the end now reached. The church has the men who have the energy and will to do when required and in this case have shown their strength. They and others have given of their means liberally to rebuild this edifice. Members of both the Universalist and Congregationalist societies of the place have contributed and their gifts are appreciated by the people of the church. And to-day the M. E. society here have as fine a church edifice as can be found in this section and are free from debt.

About 1894 the Epworth League was organized by Rev. Fickett. There were 144 members.

In 1898, Rev. J. W. Lewis was here for one year. I think he may have caused a bit of a dilemma. I quote from a report: "He was a western man. Many strange and wonderful things were done to the parsonage. A door was cut between the parlor and the small room back, and many other things - called improvements. Expense without a head! Bay windows were put in the dining room - paid for by the Epworth League."

It doesn't sound as though they were too pleased with Rev. Lewis.

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REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

I was working on the ice on the lake at "Hedgehog Landing" and accidentally walked either into an airhole in the ice or off the edge of it and went completely under water. When I got out it was late afternoon with about zero temperature and more than a mile from camp. I didn't dare go back up the river in the boat for fear of freezing so I went ashore and walked back to camp through the snow. One of the boys went with me to help break trail.

On the way back I suffered most with my feet since walking in the snow didn't allow them any chance to warm up. I don't remember any time in my life when a logging camp looked any better to me than it did on that day.

Richard built himself a houseboat on a log raft in the late summer or fall of 1938 and he and Rita lived in it for a while at the mill at Cambridge which by this time had acquired the name of "Pugwash." I believe that it was Guy Rice who gave our little settlement at the mill the name "Pugwash," and when Richard built the boat for use on the Umbagog Lake operation, that was also christened "The Pugwash." Richard and Rita's houseboat was towed up to the camp at Cedar Stump and they lived in it during that winter of 1938 and 1939.

During this winter while I was away Guy Rice again moved into our house and took care of my livestock, while Marie and Kathryn lived with Ida Packard in the upstairs rent of the house on Vernon Street in Bethel Village then owned by Myron Bryant, later bought by Francis Noyes.

Phyllis was at the Deaconess Hospital in Boston getting her nurse's training.

(to be continued in the next issue)

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the *Oxford County Advertiser*, 7 May 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway

On the ninth of July the Regt. was under marching orders for the front, being the watchword and "taking phase" at that time through the country. By the sixteenth of the month the whole army was on the move, the Fifth Maine being brigaded with the Third and Fourth Maine and the Second Vermont, under the command of Gen. O.O. Howard. The soldiers of the army were anxious to see "The Johnnies" and give them a little taste of gunpowder, in fact more so than they were a few days afterward. Everybody was filled with enthusiasm, and it was confidently expected to put the Rebellion down inside of three months. This looks ridiculous enough now but at that time some of our wisest and greatest statesmen firmly believed it. The South too were "carried away" with ideas just as preposterous. After the first great battle, and even while the South was shouting itself hoarse, over its victory, the North though humiliated, immediately began immense preparations for the mighty contest and it became apparent to everyone that the struggle was to be long, severe and bloody. But before they fairly got into it, war seemed but a pleasant past-time, and the soldiers went marching on singing songs, telling stories and making pleasing allusions of the enemy. The Fifth Maine bivouacked at Centersville on the 19th and early in the morning of Sunday the 21st of July, it was ordered out to be prepared for the onward movement against the enemy in force in the vicinity of Bull Run, but a few miles distant. At

four o'clock the Regt. moved about half a mile and "rested under the shade of the trees" for six long hours. The sound of battle which had already begun was distinctly heard. It was a hot day. Not a cloud was in the sky, nor a breath of wind stirred the leaves on the trees. Dressed in thick woolen garments the situation of the soldiers was intolerable. They were impatient to move on and could not understand the reason for delay. In the distance could be seen the glistening bayonets of advancing troops. The sounds of the conflict increased.

An orderly dashed up with the order to advance, and, but a short distance was marched over before they were started on the double quick. Under such a sun dressed as they were it was impossible for men to stand a run like that for a great while. It thinned the ranks more than the bullets of the enemy could have done in the same length of time. Men fell in squads by the roadside, while the run of several miles was kept up. The cause of it all was this. Our army successful in the first part of the day, on the arrival of Gen. Joe Johnston, it became necessary to bring all our available forces into the fight to meet new Confederate forces which had unexpectedly made its appearance as Gen. Patterson was supposed to keep it employed and prevent its reinforcing Gen. Beauregard. But alas for the day Patterson failed to do his duty.

(to be continued in the next issue)

MINISTERS OF THE BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

1798	Rev. Nicholas Snethen
1799	Circuit Preachers: Rev. T. Merritt J. Baker J. Soul J. Merrick
1800	Rev. Joseph Baker
1814	Rev. Caleb Fuller S. B. Chase Joseph Gray W. C. Stevens Moses Davis
1859	Rev. E. Davis
1861-1862	Rev. Abel Potter
1862	John B. Lapham Noah Herbert Uriel Rideout Benjamin Foster
1878	Rev. Charles Morse J. Keene Aaron Sanderson Nathan D. Carter Charles Bisbee
1879-1880	Rev. Thomas Hillman
1881-1882	B. F. Pease
1883-1884	Rev. Sylvester Hooper (first in Main St. parsonage)
1888-1889	J. H. Trask
1890-1891	S. T. Record Rev. A. K. Bryant supplied

(Ministers, continued from page 5)

1892-1894	B. F. Fickett
1895-1897	Alexander Hamilton
1898	J. W. Lewis
1899	W. B. Eldredge
1902	O. S. Pillsbury
1903-1904	Frank C. Potter
1905-1907	F. B. Schoonover
1908-1911	C. L. Banghart
1912	B. F. Fickett
1913-1915	T. C. Chapman
1916-1919	H. S. Truman
1919	E. C. Swartz
1920-1921	C. L. Wheaton
1922-1926	C. B. Oliver (first in Mason St. parsonage)
1927-1929	Rev. W. R. Patterson
1930-1934	Rev. Roy Dalzell
1934-1938	Rev. Percy J. Clifford
1938-1944	Rev. Murchie A. Gordon Rev. Mary Gibson supplied
1944-1949	Rev. William Penner Evans Wilson supplied Forrest Stowell supplied
1949	Rev. F. Ernest Smith
1950-1953	David Hickland E. Wilson, F. Stowell, Blake Ellis, Rev. Duncan Moores supplied
1953-1955	Robert Carter, student
1956-1958	Dwight McMahon
1958-1963	Richard Hamilton, student
1964-1965	Donald Hess, student
1966-1969	Rev. George Stebbins
1969-1971	Rev. Frederick Bailey
1973	Rev. James Nason
1974-1980	Ronald C. McKinstry, student
1980-1983	Rev. E. Millett Cummings
1983-1986	Guy Downing
1986-1993	Rev. Lisa Vonderheide
1993-	Rev. Henry S. Nickerson

1994 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

January 6	Annual "So You Think You Know Bethel"
February 3	Annual Historical Film Festival
March 3	Oral History Night
April 7	"Cleveland-Bethel Connections" Stanley R. Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society
May 5	"History of the Oxford County Jail" Lloyd C. Herrick, Sheriff, Oxford County
June 2	"Historical Highlights of the Brick Grammar School" (built 1893-94)
July 7	Annual Picnic, Tour of Sunday River Valley
August 4	"D.D. Coombs: Lewiston's Painter Laureate"

Genetta McLean, Director, Bates College Art Museum

September 1 Pot Luck Supper, 29th Annual Meeting
"People from Away: Mount Desert Island at the Turn of the Century"
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission

October 6 "What's It" Night

November 3 "The Richardson Lakes: Some Historical Highlights"
Randall H. Bennett, Curator of Collections, Bethel Historical Society

December 1 Annual "Christmas with the Masons"

All meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. and are held in the Dr. Moses Mason Meeting Room unless otherwise specified. The Annual Picnic will begin at 5 P.M. at Artist's Bridge in Newry. The Pot Luck Supper will begin at 6:30 P.M.; anyone attending is requested to bring a hot dish, salad or dessert.

(Methodist Church, continued from page 4)

In June, 1899, the Epworth League hosted the 10th annual meeting of the Lewiston District Epworth League.

In 1904 Rev. Frank C. Potter was the minister. He was Virginia Walker's grandfather. In that year, the Methodist Junior League was formed. Officers included some familiar names, such as: Eva Smith (Browne), Eva Glines (Herrick), Arthur Herrick, Clifford Potter, and Alice Smith (Brown).

In 1906, the church bought a Seybold Piped Reed Organ for which \$500 was paid down. That same year, membership was 123, and the minister's salary was \$600.

In 1910, a bathroom with all the equipment was installed in the parsonage.

While Rev. T. C. Chapman was here (1913-14-15) the Budget Plan was adopted and the parish asked to raise \$1000. The first year more was raised than was asked for.

In 1914, there were more familiar names in the list of Sunday School officers: Naomi Smith (Bean), Minnie Wilson, and Howard Tyler.

In 1915, the church was raised several feet and rooms built in the basement. The committee on repairs was N. R. Springer, Davis Lovejoy, Levi Bartlett and Horace Annis. That summer, services were held in the Odd Fellows Hall. The following excerpt from the Oct. 28, 1915 issue of *THE OXFORD COUNTY CITIZEN* describes the extensive renovations on the church:

"In the auditorium the ceiling has been re-modelled and covered with steel of appropriate pattern and coloring, the sidewalls have been newly papered, and all wood work treated to a coat of varnish. A new hard wood floor replaces the carpet formerly used, track-ers of rubber being laid in the aisles. The pews are stained to more nearly match the interior finish, and the pulpit furniture is newly upholstered. Lifting the building four feet above the old level gives space for three rooms below in addition to the place reserved for the furnace and fuel. The largest room will be used by the Men's Bible Class regularly, and will be convenient for social occasions and as a dining room. The kitchen will also be a cozy place for a Sunday School class. Attendants will appreciate especially in the winter the fact that the entrance is on the ground

floor and the stairway within." This project cost \$2000.

Electric lights had been installed sometime previous to the raising of the church.

In May, 1921, a farewell party was given the Nelson Springer family which had been active in the church for many years. Mr. Springer was owner of Springer's Dowel Mill (later Hanover Dowel Company), and also built the house next door to the church (now Holidae House).

From 1922-26, Rev. Chester B. Oliver was pastor. These were years of much accomplishment for the church. In 1923, a public reading room was opened in the vestry, Mon.-Fri., 7:30-9:30 P.M.

June 7, 1923, the Main St. parsonage was sold to G. N. Sanborn for \$2500. A building lot on Mason St. was bought from Clarence Fox for \$300. A new parsonage was built at a cost of \$3000.

From an issue of *The Oxford County Citizen* in late 1923.

NEW METHODIST PARSONAGE – Early Beginnings. Sale of Old Parsonage. Purchase of a Lot. The New Cellar. Growth of House Interest in The Project

The Methodist people of Bethel have long felt the need of a new parsonage. At different times in the past few years a common topic of discussion has been the possibility of a smaller and less expensive house built upon the same premises or very near the old one. Each year all have seen that the cost of labor and material has advanced, consequently the idea of such a change has been given up almost as quickly as it came into being. Early in February of this year the trustees – acting upon the suggestion of the District Superintendent, the minister of the church and others – took up the subject again. Several plans were secured. Committees were appointed and a definite price was set for the old house. June 7, 1923 the house on Main Street was sold to Mr. G. N. Sanborn, then living in the A. C. Adams house on Spring Street. The Sanborn family very graciously permitted the minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. C. B. Oliver, to live upstairs while the new house was being built.

An excellent lot, seven rods square, was purchased from Mr. Clarence K. Fox on Mason Street. Because it is customary to find the parsonage very close to the church, some felt that the distance from the Methodist Church was too great. On measuring this route, however, all fears were cast aside, for it was discovered that two minutes walk would bring one to the church on Main Street. This lot is in the midst of two pretty groves and affords a splendid view of the hills beyond the village.

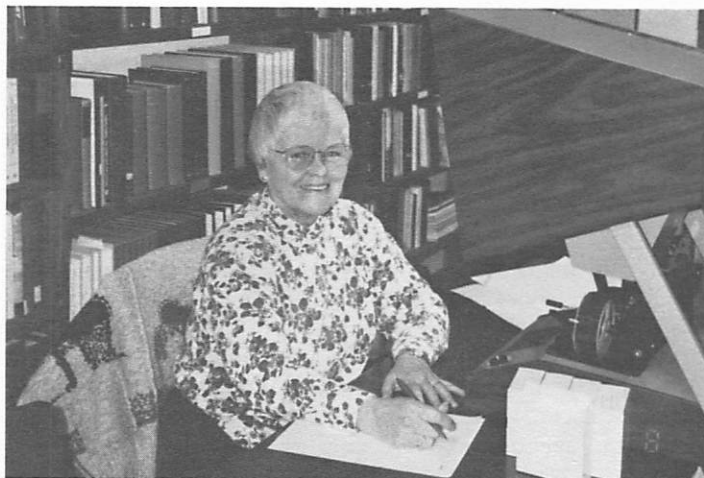
The ground was broken on the first day of August and work begun in earnest by Mr. H. I. Bean of Spring Street. A very substantial cellar soon came into view and work progressed rapidly. Many visitors came from day to day expressing delight in the location and style of architecture chosen. By November the building was ready for the painters, who finished their work November thirteen. Rev. and Mrs. C. B. Oliver moved into their new quarters on Thursday, November fifteen.

The house is 26x28, built upon cement, rat proof cellar. The garage at the rear, built with cement walls, serves as the foundation of a spacious wood shed. There is a front and back piazza. The large windows in every room give ample sunlight. The floors are hard wood throughout, very highly polished. The hard pine finish matches the floors exactly in shade. There are seven rooms and a bath. Three of these

rooms are on the first floor. Upstairs there are three bed rooms, a study and a modern bath room, all leading off of a common hall way. A new one-pipe furnace heats the building. Electric lights in every room are operated by convenient switches. Large closets in every bed room make the house very convenient.

The extent of giving time or labor to this project has not been marked by large numbers because people have been

(continued on page 8)



PAULINE P. DAVIS

MEMBER PROFILE

Pauline P. Davis

Born in Roxbury, Maine, daughter of Marshus and Marion Wilson Philbrick, Pauline P. Davis graduated from Gould Academy ('45) and Westbrook College ('47). She married Robert Davis in 1947 and they are the parents of four children and grandparents of eight.

For thirty-one years Mrs. Davis worked as a secretary at Gould Academy. Now retired, she continues to work part-time at the *Bethel Citizen*. She serves on the Gould Academy Alumni Board and on the Bethel Comprehensive Plan Committee. She is also active in Senior Citizens.

For the past four years, she has been an active volunteer at the Bethel Historical Society, where she is a life member. She has presented two programs at Society meetings, guided in the museum, and researches back issues of the *Bethel Citizen* for the weekly feature "Looking Back."

Her hobbies include cross country skiing, knitting, and bird watching.

BOOK NOTES

The following publications are available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 300, Bowie, Maryland 20716. Include \$3.50 postage/handling per order.

Cemetery Inscriptions, and Revolutionary, War of 1812, and Civil War Veterans of Bowdoin, Maine, by Charlene B. Bartlett and Jayne E. Bickford. 1993, 181 pp., paper, surname index, \$18.50. Due to the destruction of Bowdoin's early vital records in an 1872 fire, this listing of inscriptions and related information from over forty-five Bowdoin cemeteries is a valuable resource for the study of families that once resided in and around this Maine town. Using the 1850 census and Bowdoin selectmen's records, the authors have also

included much about local veterans, including their name, service record, birth and death dates, and next of kin.

The History of Warren, a Mountain Hamlet Located Among the White Hills of New Hampshire, by William Little. 1870 (reprint with additions), about 615 pp., maps, illus., index, paper, \$35.00. A reprint of the much-sought-after 19th century history of an important town at the southern edge of the White Mountains, this attractive volume now includes a new preface, a biographical sketch of the author, an earlier sketch of the town by Edward Whitcher, and a few additional illustrations that were not in the original work. William Little's Warren history includes a wealth of information about the first three generations of local residents, as well as general material covering the period from pre-settlement Indian occupation to post Civil War times. An extensive appendix contains many lists, including land grant and tax records.

History of Salem, New Hampshire, by Edgar Gilbert. 1907 (reprint), about 932 pp., 2 vols., illus., maps, indices, paper, \$50.00. A major source for the study of this large southern N.H. town, Gilbert's 1907 *History of Salem* has long been out-of-print. Besides carrying much about the town's settlement and later development (chapters focus on ecclesiastical, civil, political, educational and military history, among other subjects), this work includes a great deal of genealogical data. Lists of taxpayers, soldiers, and members of societies are supplemented with a biographical/genealogical chapter covering such surnames as Abbott, Ayer, Bailey, Davis, Duston, Gordon, Hall, Kimball, Soule, Tayler, Wheeler, and Wheeler. The last part of the book consists of vital records, including births (3600 entries), marriages (1500 entries), and deaths (1120 entries), with dates as far back as 1760.

EDITOR'S CORNER

The response to the article on Bridge Street/Cross Street/Riverside Lane has been excellent. Alert readers have, however, pointed out that three clarifications are in order: Ben and Diane "DeeDee" Kellogg built their house on the corner of Riverside Lane and Bridge Street in 1968; Richard Douglass sold all his family's property on Bridge Street and did not retain any part of it; in 1992 Pure Snowboard opened for business in a building in back of Java House. Danna Nickerson has written that she and her husband George built a one and a half story garage at the rear of the present Pappas property on Bridge Street in 1982. On March 5, 1983, she and Georg: opened the Unicorn Flower Shop, which operated out of their living room and sunporch until the summer of that year when the business was moved into an addition built on to the rear of the house. Greenhouses were added to the business during the spring and summer of 1985. They operated the flower shop and greenhouses for three and a half years before selling them to Lisa Friedlander on August 27, 1986; she sold the premises to the present owners in 1989. In 1988, Lisa's mother Ann moved the business to a new location opposite Telstar Regional High School, where it continues today.

Alf Howard wrote that Phineas Howard's birth date should be 1765 not 1771 as we had indicated in the summer issue. We have changed our cemetery record to reflect what is on his gravestone.

SRH

Vital Records from Maine Newspapers, 1785-1820, by David C. and Elizabeth Keene Young. 1993, about 765 pp., 2 vols., paper, \$45.00. A major source for the Maine genealogist, this two-volume set of abstracted vital records from over thirty-five newspapers includes marriages, deaths, notices of runaways, and estate notices. Arranged alphabetically by surname, these records contain citations which identify the publication and issue date. A list of locations where original or microfilmed papers are available is also included for those using this set as an index to additional data. Extensive appendices cover such subjects as tax notices, religious denominations (with the location of records kept by clergymen), and towns in Maine which had Quaker settlements (known for their excellent records). This study concludes with a bibliography of more than sixty references and a list of research libraries.

Underwood Biographical Dictionary, by Laverne Galeener-Moore. 1993, 567 pp., index, paper, \$37.00. Arranged in alphabetical fashion and numbered for cross-referencing, this collection of genealogical material is a convenient "workbook" for researchers interested in the surname Underwood. The fruit of thirteen years of research and over 120 sources, this "dictionary" contains an index of all other surnames in the work, as well as references to the original records from which the data was taken.

1850 Hillsborough County, N.H., Census, Part 3, by Ann L. Nichols Brown. 1993, about 406 pp., illus., index, paper, \$33.00. The N.H. communities of Nashua, Manchester, and Nashville complete the census transcription begun in Parts 1 and 2 of this series published in 1992. Besides the census data, there is also a county map, a list of abbreviations and occupations, a mortality schedule for each town, a roster of Revolutionary War patriots, and a surname index.

Kingston, N.H., Early Families, Patriots, and Soldiers, by Kathleen E. Hosier. 1993, 459 pp., maps, index, paper \$32.00. Established in 1694, Kingston, N.H., was largely settled by families from nearby Hampton, and from Amesbury, Salisbury, and Newbury, Mass. A major section of this book is devoted to the genealogies of numerous early Kingston families, while another portion contains lists and biographical information about the town's patriots and soldiers of the Revolutionary period. As Kingston families later migrated north and west, data included here covers the ancestors of families scattered from Maine to Ohio.

(Methodist Church, continued from page 7)

unable to leave their own work. The opportunity, however, to support this project, financially, has been grasped in a commendable manner. In about a month's time twenty-two people have paid a total of one thousand dollars. The church has a membership of one hundred and twenty, and many friends of the church are ready to share in the work.

Rev. C. B. Oliver has announced that visitors are very welcome. He further states that it is the purpose of the host and hostess to use the new building to added advantage of all, even to the extent of returning a few of the favors of a very hospitable people.

On Armistice Sunday, 1923, Gov. Percival Baxter took part in the service at the Bethel M. E. Church.

Rev. W. R. Patterson served the church through 1927-29. A quiet, pleasant man, and a good carpenter, he built a small cottage on Songo Pond while he was here.

The years 1930-34, you might say, were a time of fiery sermons delivered by Rev. Roy Dalzell. No doubt, sending



Bethel's first Main Street Methodist Church as it looked ca. 1875. Courtesy of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

an evangelistic minister was an effort by the Conference to create more enthusiasm and zeal within the church after several slow years.

On November 20, 1933, Dr. Ira Berry gave an interesting presentation of The Passion Play which the villagers of Oberammergau, Bavaria, have presented every ten years during Lent since the early 17th century as a thanksgiving for their deliverance from a plague that ravaged Europe at that time. He showed pictures and spoke the words as the villagers did.

During the early thirties the Mothers Club was organized. As this was before the days of baby-sitting as we know it now, the fact that mothers could bring their babies and young children to the meetings made it possible for more young women to join the organization. One of their projects was the presentation of a 3-act comedy, "Sound Your Horn," at Odeon Hall on Dec. 12, 1934. Also, many

may remember the fun they had at Mothers Club picnics at Fannie Carter's farm home at Middle Intervale.

While Rev. Dalzell was here a number of renovations and improvements were made, i.e. the roof was shingled, the platform in the sanctuary was lowered, a new rug added, and a new chimney built at a total cost of about \$1000. The Capen sisters (Alice and Minnie) gave new lights for the sanctuary.

From 1934-38 the Rev. P. J. Clifford was pastor.

In March, 1935 the Epworth League presented the play, "The Meddlesome Maid," at Odeon Hall, directed by Alma Thurston. The cast included: Charles Smith, Florine Bean, Walter and Verna Grover, Margaret Hamlin, John and Sally King, Stanley and Edwin Brown, and Phyllis Davis.

Trustees in 1935 were Leslie Davis, Horace Annis, Fred Clark, H. I. Bean, Carl L. Brown, and Dr. S. S. Greenleaf.

In September, 1936, the reed organ was sold, and the church bought an organ from the Pine Street Church in Portland. It was a two manual, 700 pipe organ, and although it was Rev. Clifford's pride and joy, it was the cause of frequent frustration and worry to the organist and choir because of sticking keys and off-tune pipes. Mildred Lyon, the organist, was often embarrassed by the wheezing and odd noises that often came forth whenever she switched it on.

I remember one occasion, in an effort to have the organ sound its best for a Christmas Concert, my brother, Bob Greenleaf and I bundled up in long-johns and ski suits, and worked on the organ in the unheated church. Bob climbed up in among the pipes, and when I struck a key would find the offending pipe and adjust the air-valve to tune it.

Howard Clark of Portland gave a concert on the new organ on Nov. 18, 1936, and the organ dedication took place at 3 P.M., Nov. 29, 1936.

On June 9, 1937 the Bethel Grammar School graduation was held at the church. Carrie Wight was superintendent of schools at the time.

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There is an amusing story in connection with the graduation. It seems that Merle Swan, the father of one of the graduates, Joyce Swan, was quite reluctant to attend the exercises, as he wasn't one to attend meetings, entertainments, etc. He told his daughter that the church would probably fall down if he went to it. However, he was persuaded to go. There was a large crowd, all the seats were filled, and people were standing in the back of the church. The program was nearly over, when the floor in the back left corner (next to Brooks' store), under the strain of the weight of the large crowd, suddenly gave way with a loud report and went down several inches. Needless to say, people were quite startled, and moved quickly away from that area. No one was hurt, but, later, people were greatly amused when they heard what Mr. Swan predicted would happen if he went in the church.

From 1938-44 the church was served by Rev. Murchie A. Gordon. He and Mrs. Gordon were well-liked in town. Their two oldest daughters, Jeannette and Rebecca, were married while they were here, and their youngest, Rachel, graduated from Gould Academy in 1943. The Gordons celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary while here in 1942.

During his time here Rev. Gordon organized the Men's Brotherhood whose members did much to help the church. Besides enjoying the fellowship of monthly meetings when they prepared their own suppers - often oyster stew - and playing shuffleboard, the men helped with the wood for the furnace, made repairs, did painting, etc. It was informal and enjoyable. About this time the Nous Jeune Filles (later became the Eleanor Gordon Guild) was organized for young women.

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Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908.

ISSN 0749-9108

In May 1943, a Hammond electric organ was purchased and installed at a cost of \$1558.

On Sept. 19, 1943, the Church Honor Roll (WWII) and Service Flag were dedicated at a special service.

(to be continued in the next issue)

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ernest and Alberta Angevine, Bethel
Dorothy Bartlett, Bethel
Sumner and Lois Burgess, Bethel
Ethel Chapman, Bethel
Robert B. Congdon, Ilesboro
Peter T. and Beverly Haines, Bethel
Rudolf and Barbara Honkala, Bethel
Allan R. and Diane S. Howe, Bethel
Gerald M. Kimball, Gray
Elmer and Nancy Lyons, Hanover
Marlene Marshall, Bethel
Nancy Mercer, Bethel
George and Danna Nickerson, Bethel
James B. Owen, Bethel
Jean K. Owen, Bethel
Raymond and Louise Seames, Locke Mills
Stephen L. Sessions, Norway
Valerie Uber, Boston, MA
William N. and Virginia Weston, Rumford

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